

A JOINT MEMORIAL

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2 REQUESTING THE COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION AND THE STATE  
3 DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC EDUCATION TO IMPROVE THE STATE'S CONCURRENT  
4 ENROLLMENT PROGRAM.

5 WHEREAS, concurrent enrollment refers to enrollment of secondary-level  
6 students in academic and vocational courses at post-secondary institutions, which  
7 allows students to receive credit at the high school and post-secondary levels; and

8 WHEREAS, conditions for concurrent enrollment are defined as having a  
9 written agreement between the cooperating public school district and the post-  
10 secondary institution; and

11 WHEREAS, Laws 1990, Chapter 25, amended language specifying that the  
12 public school district shall transfer to the post-secondary institution attended by the  
13 high school student the tuition and fees if the student is counted in the membership of  
14 the public school district and receives high school credit for coursework taken at the  
15 post-secondary institution; and

16 WHEREAS, for several years, concerns have been expressed to the state  
17 board of education and the commission on higher education about the state's  
18 concurrent enrollment program; and

19 WHEREAS, in 2002, the commission on higher education and the state  
20 department of public education developed electronic surveys that gathered  
21 information on the concurrent enrollment program; and

22 WHEREAS, the survey data supports the opinion that at the higher education  
23 and school district levels, as well as in local partnerships, there is confusion and  
24 inconsistency in program implementation; and

25 WHEREAS, many of the concurrent enrollment agreements, as reported in the  
survey and analyzed by staff, are not in compliance with requirements for funding,  
indicating inconsistencies in eligibility requirements, payment, curriculum levels and  
faculty arrangements; and

1           WHEREAS, despite questions about the kinds of coursework that can be  
2 taught under concurrent enrollment agreements, a review of the curriculum has yet to  
3 be conducted to determine if classes include the appropriate level of instruction being  
4 taught on campus; and

5           WHEREAS, requests have been made by post-secondary institutions, school  
6 districts and students' parents to have the state review, clarify and coordinate efforts;

7           NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE  
8 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the commission on higher education and the state  
9 department of public education be requested to work in collaboration with appropriate  
10 organizations to improve the state's concurrent enrollment program; and

11           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the commission on higher education and the  
12 state department of public education be requested to develop a statewide advisory  
13 committee to:

14                   A. obtain input from students, parents, school administrators and post-  
15 secondary concurrent enrollment administrators;

16                   B. review and make policy recommendations to the commission on  
17 higher education and the state department of public education;

18                   C. review the concurrent enrollment program from  
19 a systemic approach and create a more "customer-friendly" approach to support  
20 students who can benefit from an accelerated learning experience;

21                   D. develop a policy that establishes acceptable course content areas,  
22 including consideration of tuition transfer, for the concurrent enrollment program;

23                   E. establish methods for both agencies to collect and share  
24 information;

25                   F. create a means for program accountability, possibly through  
enrollment verification visits to the post-secondary institutions and accreditation visits  
to the schools;

                    G. develop a plan to disseminate program information to stakeholders  
and provide incentives to participate in the program; and

1 H. review statutory changes that may be needed to ensure program S  
2 and funding consistency based on the recommendations developed; and J  
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3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the findings, conclusions and 8  
4 recommendations of the statewide advisory committee be presented to the legislative 6  
5 education study committee by November 30, 2003; and P  
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6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be transmitted to the 9  
7 commission on higher education, the state department of public education and the e  
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